

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /068 W

-----042585 021326Z /50

R 021120Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7822

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2693

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
REBUFFED

REF: COLOMBO 2487

1. PRIME MINISTER J.R. JAYEWARDENE'S PRE-ELECTION CALL FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH ALL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE CABINET (REFTEL) HAS BEEN REBUFFED NOT ONLY BY THE SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) BUT BY HIS OWN PARTY'S DEPUTY LEADER. IN AN ADDRESS TO HIS COLOMBO CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY JULY 31, R. PREMADASA, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY, REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT MRS. BANDARANAIKE WAS TO BE OFFERED A PORTFOLIO IN THE UNP GOVERNMENT, SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO FORM A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER. CITING THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WON BY THE UNP, HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NEED THE PROP OF A DEFEATED PRIME MINISTER WHOSE POLICIES HAVE BEEN TOTALLY REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

2. THE FOLLOWING DAY, AUGUST 1, THE SLFP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO REJECT OVERTURES BY THE UNP
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TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD, THE SLFP WILL FUNCTION AS A SEPARATE ENTITY IN THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY. THE SLFP STRENGTH JUMPED FROM EIGHT TO NINE WHEN R.P. WIJESIRI, INDEPENDENT MP FOR HARISPATTUWA, ANNOUNCED HE HAS JOINED THE SLFP.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN PRE AND POST ELECTION RHETORIC FROM THE UNP ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A NATIONAL

GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE UNP IS SERIOUSLY
COMMITTED TO THIS. PREMADASA'S JULY 31 SPEECH MAY WELL HAVE
BEEN DESIGNED TO SHUT OFF FURTHER TALKS ABOUT A NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT.
PERKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770276-0538
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REBUFFED
TAGS: PINT, CE, (JAYEWARDENE, J R)
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